Lord Nash's amendment, After Clause 27

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026

Report stage

Amendment number: 92

Lead member

Lord Nash

Conservative, Life peer

Lords

Decision

Agreed

This amendment was agreed to. Where a member has given notice of their intention to oppose a Clause/Schedule standing part of a Bill, 'agreed' indicates that the Clause/Schedule was removed from the Bill.

Amendment text

After Clause 27

insert the following new Clause—

"Action to prohibit the provision of VPN services to children in the United Kingdom

(1) Within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed the Secretary of State must, for the purpose of furthering the protection and wellbeing of children, make regulations which prohibit the provision to UK children of a relevant VPN service (the "child VPN prohibition").

(2) Regulations under subsection (1)—

(a) may make provision for the provider of a relevant VPN service to apply to any person seeking to access its service in or from the UK age assurance which is highly effective at correctly determining whether or not that person is a child;

(b) must apply the child VPN prohibition to the provider of any relevant VPN service which is, or is likely to be—

(i) offered or marketed to persons in the United Kingdom;

(ii) provided to a significant number of persons;

(c) must make provision for the monitoring and effective enforcement of the child VPN prohibition.

(3) OFCOM may produce guidance for providers of relevant VPN services to assist them in complying with the child VPN prohibition.

(4) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (1) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

(5) For the purposes of this section—

"child" means a person under the age of 18;

"consumer" means a person acting otherwise than in the course of a business;

"relevant VPN service" means a service of providing, in the course of a business, to a consumer, a virtual private network for accessing the internet;

"UK child" means any child who is in the United Kingdom."

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to take action to promote and protect children's wellbeing, and to further support child protective measures in the Online Safety Act, by prohibiting the provision to children in the United Kingdom of VPN services which can facilitate evasion of OSA age-gating processes.

Sponsors

Baroness Cass

Crossbench

Life peer

Baroness Benjamin

Liberal Democrat

Life peer

Baroness Barran

Conservative

Life peer

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